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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION ON THE WORK OF ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION*

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ITC	International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT)
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) held an organizational session (1st meeting) at United Nations Headquarters on 21 April 1995 and its thirty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters from 15 May to 9 June 1995. It held 28 meetings (2nd to 29th meetings) and a number of informal meetings.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the thirty-fifth session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting, is reproduced in annex I below.

3. In adopting the agenda, the Committee, in accordance with the decision taken at its organizational session for 1995, decided to consider, at its thirty-fifth session, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled "Review and assessment of efforts to restructure the regional dimension of United Nations economic and social activities" (A/49/423). At its 2nd meeting, on 15 May 1995, the Committee decided to consider also the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system" (A/50/126-E/1995/20), as well as the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) thereon (A/50/126/Add.1-E/1995/20/Add.1).

B. Election of officers

4. At its 1st meeting, on 21 April 1995, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Mr. Valeriu Tudor (Romania)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Jorge Osella (Argentina)
Mr. Mahmoud Barimani (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Mr. Wolfgang Stöckl (Germany)

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham Elzimaity (Egypt)

C. Attendance

5. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Argentina
Bahamas
Belarus
Benin
Brazil
Cameroon
Canada
China
Congo
Cuba
Egypt
France
Germany
Ghana
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Kenya
Mexico
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Norway
Pakistan
Republic of Korea
Romania

Russian Federation
Senegal
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America

6. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Afghanistan
Algeria
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Botswana
Bulgaria
Chile
Costa Rica
Finland
Italy
Ireland
Kazakstan
Latvia
Mongolia
New Zealand
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Uruguay

7. The following non-member State was represented by an observer: Switzerland.

8. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organization (ILO)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Health Organization (WHO)
International Monetary Fund (IMF)

9. Also present at the session were senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat. At the invitation of the Committee, Mr. Fatih Bouayad Agha, President of the Joint Inspection Unit, also participated in its work.

D. Documentation

10. The list of documents before the Committee at its thirty-fifth session is set forth in annex II below.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

11. At its 29th meeting, on 9 June 1995, the Committee adopted the draft report on its thirty-fifth session (E/AC.51/1995/L.3 and Add.1-32).

II. REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

12. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 22 May 1995, the Committee considered agenda item 3, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations". The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/49/633). In accordance with General Assembly decision 47/454 of 23 December 1992, the Committee was requested to express its views on the roles and coverage of the subsidiary bodies responsible for coordination, administrative questions and budgetary matters, including the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the United Nations Board of Auditors, JIU and CPC, with a view to improving the effectiveness of their oversight and coordination mechanisms.

Discussion

13. During the discussion, concerns were expressed that CPC needed to consider how to apply its mandate, as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, more effectively and efficiently in view of contemporary requirements and taking into account the relevant rules and regulations.

14. Delegations noted that in order for CPC to fulfil its mandate in a satisfactory manner, it required complete, timely and relevant documentation. They expressed concern that those needs had not always been met in the past. On the other hand, delegations stressed the need for CPC to give clear indications as to its documentation requirements, in terms of both substance and time-frames.

15. Delegations noted, for example, that the annual overview report for 1994 of ACC (E/1995/21), while providing valuable information on ACC proceedings, did not focus sufficiently on the coordination issues that were of primary concern to CPC. They also noted that CPC had previously drawn attention to that problem, in paragraph 159 of its report on the first part of the thirty-second session, 1/ where it stated:

> "The report was considered too descriptive in nature. A more analytical and forward-looking report was required in order to facilitate the tasks and responsibilities regarding coordination of the respective organizations that were members of ACC. The Committee emphasized that the purpose of the report was to serve as an instrument to enable both Member States and ACC to identify and overcome problems in system-wide coordination."

16. Delegations stressed the importance of joint meetings between CPC and ACC as a unique forum for in-depth and concrete exchanges of views on coordination issues. They therefore emphasized the need for such meetings to concentrate on the coordination aspects of the subjects discussed at them.

17. Some delegations offered possible roles for CPC to consider in response to new emerging needs. In this context, the following proposals were made:

(a) To develop criteria for evaluating results against prescribed parameters;

(b) To state comparative advantages of agencies in addressing programme activities;

(c) To provide a sense of what had been accomplished versus what was expected;

(d) To consider zero-based analysis (value for money) and establishing realistic performance measures.

18. Several other delegations indicated that in any possible role played by CPC in examining new emerging needs, special consideration should be given to the following:

(a) Follow-up of the established rules and regulations;

(b) Consideration of activities whose objectives had not been met and identification of the obstacles that had been met in pursuance of those objectives;

(c) Review of possible duplication or overlapping of activities within the United Nations system;

(d) In any revision of the implementation of programmes, special emphasis should be given to the achievements made as compared with the difficulties encountered in achieving them, identifying their economic, political or financial aspects.

19. Some delegations referred to other bodies responsible for oversight and control as mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General and commented on how to improve coordination with ACABQ, JIU and the United Nations Board of Auditors, while taking care to avoid duplication of work. In that regard some delegations supported a term of office of six years for the members of the United Nations Board of Auditors.

Conclusions

20. The Committee considered that since it was the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council, it should be informed of the views and decisions of that body regarding reports that it had submitted in accordance with its mandate. The need for an adequate follow-up by the Council and its respective intergovernmental bodies was stressed.

21. The Committee recognized the need to pay more in-depth attention to its coordinating role, which should be based on substantive issues. To that end, the Committee considered that it required a more detailed insight into the efforts of ACC and other relevant departments of the United Nations in that respect.

22. The Committee considered that there should be careful preparation of joint CPC/ACC meetings. The structure and content of the joint meetings should therefore be determined in advance. The Committee also expressed the need to encourage dialogue through in-depth discussions, as opposed to orally delivered prepared statements.

23. The Committee stressed the need for the Secretariat to provide it regularly with complete and relevant documentation, including the decisions and

resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on its reports and the memoranda on the implementation of resolutions, prepared by the Secretariat, after each session of the Assembly and the Council, in accordance with paragraph 2 (a) (iii) of the annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) on the terms of reference of the Committee.

24. The Committee agreed to review regularly its working methods and procedures.

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997

25. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 was introduced by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and by the Controller at the 10th meeting of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on 23 May 1995.

26. The Committee was informed that the paramount consideration in formulating the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 was to put forward a proposal that responded fully and in the most cost-effective manner to the mandates provided by Member States. The level of the resources proposed, in comparable terms, was lower than that of the revised appropriations for 1994-1995 and lower than that of the programme budget outline for the biennium 1996-1997. A determined effort had been made by programme managers to look for efficiency gains in the form of rationalization of work programmes, improvement in productivity and simplification of work procedures, and, as a result, there had been savings without affecting delivery of mandated activities. The Committee was informed that the Secretariat would continue to review overlapping and duplication of work.

27. The Committee was also informed that the distribution of resources had been guided by the priority areas as identified in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, 2/ and also by those reflected in the budget outline, namely, political affairs, international and regional cooperation for development, human rights, humanitarian affairs and internal oversight.

28. It was pointed out to the Committee that the new format of the budget included a self-contained part one, which gave a comprehensive picture without requiring reference to individual budget sections. New features included summaries of each budget section, additional information on expenditures for the biennium 1992-1993 and information on extrabudgetary expenditures and projections by object of expenditure.

29. At its 10th to 13th meetings, on 23 and 24 May 1995, the Committee considered part one of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

30. Some delegations expressed concern for the reduction in the number of subprogrammes in the proposed programme budget and stressed the need for in-depth consideration of this issue during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

31. A number of delegations welcomed the significant reduction in resource levels in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, which was to be achieved through maximum efforts at efficiency. Several other delegations recognized the increased demands being placed upon the Organization and stressed that a reduction in the budget should not be perceived as meaning a reduced role for the Organization and that such a reduction must not affect the proper implementation of all mandated programmes and activities. Those delegations expressed concern for the possible negative impact that the reductions could have on the implementation of programmes, in particular those in the economic area. A number of delegations were of the view that it was the responsibility

of Member States to ensure that there were no discrepancies between mandates and resources, and emphasized that once the budget was approved it was essential for Member States to meet their financial obligations by paying their assessments in full, on time and without conditions.

32. Several delegations stressed the importance of strictly adhering to the priorities as set in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, in particular with regard to African economic recovery and relevant programmes, mainly programme 45. Other delegations recalled that the General Assembly, in annex I, paragraph 1 (b), of its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, had required the Secretary-General, in preparing the biennial budgets, to indicate priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature, and were of the view that the priorities indicated in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 were appropriate.

33. Some delegations questioned the appropriateness of including internal oversight among the priorities of a broad sectoral nature, emphasizing that it was not in itself a substantive activity of the Organization or a priority agreed by the General Assembly, and stressed that they did not approve of the proposed increase in the budget for the Office of Internal Oversight Services at the expense of other mandated activities of the Organization. One delegation questioned the excessive and disproportionate increase in the budget for the Office, taking into account that this was not a priority decided on by the Assembly. Many delegations regretted that the Secretariat had not taken fully into consideration the views expressed by Member States when they had considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget outline for the biennium 1996-1997 (A/49/310) during the forty-ninth session, and expressed their views that the Secretariat should strictly comply with decisions by Member States. Other delegations emphasized their support for the strengthening of the Office, which had an important role in all programmes and stressed the need for additional resources for that Office as proposed in the budget proposal.

34. Many delegations expressed concern at the proposed reduction in resources for development, despite this being a priority, and stressed the need to ensure adequate resources for development activities. Other delegations underlined in particular their support for the designation of human rights, humanitarian affairs, peacemaking, preventive diplomacy and internal oversight as priorities. Some delegations felt that priorities like human rights and humanitarian affairs should be allotted more resources than had ben proposed. Other delegations questioned proposals for the provision of additional resources for human rights and humanitarian affairs. Some delegations stressed that the programme of work for 1996-1997 should properly reflect all mandates of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 3/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, particularly the right to development. Some delegations also emphasized the need to ensure that the proposed budget for humanitarian affairs was in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991.

35. Some delegations regretted that the Secretary-General had proposed the transfer of posts from the peace-keeping support account to the regular budget without any legislative mandate. Those delegations emphasized the importance of giving equal treatment regarding the transfer of resources to all sections of the budget. Other delegations emphasized that the Secretary-General was mandated to carry out back-stopping of peace-keeping operations and that the proposed transfer of posts concerned only the method of financing, and was therefore a legitimate part of the budget proposal for the Department of Peace-keeping Operations.

36. Some delegations stressed that the Secretary-General did not have the mandate to propose the establishment at Vienna of a unit for the support of reconstruction and development in central and eastern Europe. They questioned some of the proposed activities to be carried out by that unit. Other delegations, however, emphasized that the Secretary-General had a mandate for those activities and expressed support for the transfer of the unit as a means to implement mandated activities in a more cost-effective manner. Several delegations noted that the Secretary-General's proposal had referred to the establishment of a new office, while the Committee was informed by the representative of the Secretary-General that the intention was to transfer the Unit now at Geneva to Vienna. Therefore it was also stressed that clearer information was required. Some delegations emphasized that the activities related to the reconstruction and development of central and eastern Europe should continue to be undertaken by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

37. With regard to the activities not carried over from the current biennium to 1996-1997, amounting to $92.8 million, many delegations noted that those resources were for activities related to the preparations for and convening of the global conferences that were held during the biennium 1994-1995, the completion of special missions such as the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA), completion of apartheid activities and the completion of major construction in the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

38. Many delegations stressed that the decrease in the level of resources should not affect priority areas, the economic development of developing countries and, in particular, African economic recovery. These delegations stressed the need to increase the level of both regular budget and extrabudgetary resources in section 7B, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development, and emphasized the importance of fully supporting programmes relating to Africa.

39. Many delegations stressed the importance of follow-up activities to all major conferences and expressed the view that the Secretary-General should make every effort to provide adequate resources for the follow-up to those conferences. They noted that adequate resources for follow-up activities to the World Summit for Social Development, the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Fourth World Conference on Women would be considered in the light of decisions by the General Assembly. Some delegations expressed concern that the absence of budgetary provision for these and other expected additional activities, such as ad hoc missions, gave a misleading picture of the level of growth in the budget. Some delegations stressed the importance of improving coordination between the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, and indicated that the division of their responsibilities should be in accordance with their respective mandates.

40. Many delegations expressed concern at the negative impact of the restructuring process on the implementation of some programmes. Those delegations also emphasized that in the search for efficiency a distinction had to be made as to the nature of the different activities. Other delegations welcomed the fact that the efficiency savings were the result of rationalization of work programmes, improvement of productivity related to investment in technological improvements, simplification of work procedures and reductions in external printing, travel, consultants, supplies, equipment and general

operating expenses, and therefore would not have a negative impact on mandated activities.

41. A number of delegations questioned the level of consultancy resources and the necessity for outside expertise. They expressed concern in respect of the heavy reliance on consultants instead of use of the services of available staff and in-house expertise.

42. A number of delegations noted that as a result of recosting, Member States would be assessed a higher nominal amount than for the biennium 1994-1995. Other delegations stated that this situation was totally logical, taking into account the recosting methodology currently used. One delegation stated that this would be unacceptable and urged that significantly greater savings be achieved for 1996-1997. Several delegations expressed their concern over the effect of the future recosting and stated that every effort should continue to be made to achieve cost-effectiveness with relation to additional activities that might emerge towards the end of this year.

Conclusions and recommendations

43. The Committee expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Secretary-General to present a programme budget on time and took note of the new features in the format of the budget.

44. The Committee noted that the total amount of resources requested by the Secretary-General was below the level determined in the programme budget outline for the biennium 1996-1997, and noted also the Secretary-General's assurances that such a reduction would in no way affect the implementation of all mandated programmes and activities.

45. The Committee recommended that proposals for provision of resources in the programme budget for 1996-1997 should be derived from the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, and legislative mandates adopted subsequent to the adoption of the medium-term plan or its last revisions.

46. The Committee took note of the methodology used to prepare the proposed programme budget.

47. The Committee noted the refinements in the presentation of the budget and recognized that the new format included additional features, particularly the presentation of extrabudgetary resources and their linkage with the regular budget, as requested previously by the Committee.

Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination

48. At its 28th meeting, on 6 June 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

49. Many delegations endorsed the structure of the section. Some delegations questioned the structure of that section and stressed that a number of bodies listed, such as ACABQ and the Committee on Contributions, should not be

considered policy-making organs but rather expert bodies rendering technical advice to the General Assembly and other main bodies.

50. Some delegations felt that proposed increases and decreases under the General Assembly, the Committee on Contributions, the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and the United Nations Board of Auditors should have been explained more fully in the proposal. One delegation felt that the level of resources provided for CPC, including staff support, was not commensurate to its tasks. Another delegation stressed the importance of the functions of the President of the General Assembly and felt that resources should be allocated to enable him or her to take part in major events outside New York during his or her term in office.

51. With regard to the provisions proposed for ACABQ, some delegations felt that the increase in the travel provision was excessive. A number of delegations queried the cost of airfares for spouses of members of ACABQ and stressed that the matter should be reviewed during the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

52. Some delegations questioned the proposed increase in extrabudgetary posts, particularly since the staffing of the secretariat had already been augmented in 1992-1993. One delegation supported the level of resources for ACABQ and recalled the continued increase in the workload of CPC as a result of reports requested by the General Assembly, in particular those related to peace-keeping operations. Some delegations stressed that additional posts for the ACABQ secretariat should be made available on a temporary basis.

Conclusions and recommendations

53. The Committee took note of the narrative of section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 2. Political affairs

54. At its 25th meeting, on 5 June 1995, the Committee considered section 2, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

55. Many delegations welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General to streamline the Department of Political Affairs. Some delegations welcomed the overall substantial decrease in the resources proposed. Some delegations expressed concern as to whether sufficient resources had been proposed for activities relating to the Security Council.

56. Several delegations considered that resources allocated to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples were excessive. Several other delegations expressed support for the level of resources proposed.

57. Some delegations suggested that the Department of Political Affairs review the narratives relating to subprogrammes 1, Special political questions, and 2,

Regional, political and security cooperation, of programme 4, Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, 2/ with a view to further streamlining and coordinating those activities and avoiding apparent overlap.

58. Some delegations supported the programme narrative of subprogramme 3, Trusteeship and decolonization, of programme 4, whose legislative mandate was based on General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and subsequent resolutions of the Assembly on the item. Other delegations regarded the programme as a low priority.

59. Many delegations emphasized that the proposed activities to be carried out under subprogramme 4, Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections, with respect to provision of electoral assistance should in all cases be in the form of responses to requests made by Governments. Several delegations expressed their strong support for the role and activities of the Electoral Assistance Division.

60. With respect to programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan, many delegations stressed that additional resources should have been proposed for the regional centres in order to strengthen them. They regretted that the actual state of the centres did not allow them to undertake their activities in a satisfactory manner. Other delegations emphasized that the proposed increase for the programme of activities of the Conference on Disarmament was not adequate to carry out the mandated activities.

61. Many delegations welcomed the fact that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People would remain until a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine had been achieved, expressed concern at the proposed decrease in resources for programme 5, Question of Palestine, and urged the Secretary-General to review the narrative of the programme with a view to reinstating the two posts proposed for suppression. Many other delegations expressed their support for the Secretary-General's proposed reduction on the understanding that it would not affect the quality of delivery of mandated activities.

62. One delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal that activities related to the Office of the Coordinator of United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon (UNARDOL) should continue to be carried out and emphasized that this should be done by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) rather than by the resident coordinator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

63. Several delegations did not agree to the level of resources proposed for consultants and travel.

Conclusions and recommendations

64. The Committee recommended deletion of the phrase "the front-line States" in paragraph 2.48.1 (a) (iii) and the phrase "but not in Africa" in paragraph 2.104.3 (b).

65. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 2, Political affairs, as amended, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 3. Peace-keeping operations and special missions

66. At its 26th and 27th meetings, on 5 June 1995, the Committee considered section 3, Peace-keeping operations and special missions, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

67. Many delegations welcomed the reorganization of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and considered that it should improve the Department's capacity to meet the challenges facing it. Many delegations welcomed the streamlining of the support units for peace-keeping under the Field Administration and Logistics Division and stressed the importance of further improving the quality of services provided to troop-contributing countries, mainly in the areas of logistics and personnel. Many delegations stressed the difficulties encountered by troop-contributing countries, especially with regard to deaths and disability claims, troop reimbursement costs and related matters. Some delegations further emphasized the importance of mitigating, if not completely eliminating, the problems of troop- and equipment-contributing countries, as well as the problems relating to death and disability claims.

68. Many delegations emphasized the importance of effective public information support activities as a component of peace-keeping operations and felt that a mission information unit to back-stop such field activities should have been included in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. Many other delegations said that no legislative mandate existed for the establishment of a mission information unit within the Department and underlined their support for the decision of the Secretary-General not to include a mission information unit in the budget proposal for the Department.

69. Many delegations supported the Secretary-General's proposal to transfer posts from the support account for peace-keeping operations to the regular budget as an appropriate reflection of the increase in the Department's core activities. Many other delegations regretted the Secretary-General's proposed transfer of posts, despite the debate on the matter in the General Assembly, and expressed opposition to the proposal as there was no specific legislative mandate in this respect. One delegation hoped there would be a clear decision on this issue at the next resumed session of the Assembly. Another delegation suggested that the issue could be resolved during the Assembly's consideration of the proposed programme budget.

70. Some delegations felt that the Secretary-General should have included financial provision in the proposed programme budget for unforeseen ad hoc missions, at a level commensurate with the requirements for such missions in the recent past. The representative of the Secretary-General recalled in this connection that, in his report on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/47/358), the Secretary-General had included such a financial provision. In its related report (A/47/7/Add.9), ACABQ had recommended against the proposal, since, by their very nature, those activities were generally unpredictable and the experience gained in one biennium was not necessarily an indication of what would be encountered in the next. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee believed that the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/187 of 20 December 1991 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, had adequately provided for any unexpected activity. The Assembly had accepted this recommendation. It was on that basis that the Secretary-General had not

included a similar proposal in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Conclusions and recommendations

71. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 3, Peace-keeping operations and special missions, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 4. Outer space affairs

72. At its 25th meeting, on 5 June 1995, the Committee considered section 4, Outer space affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

73. Several delegations queried the level of resources proposed for the section and expressed the view that additional information could have been provided with respect to the activities to be carried out and the level of resources proposed since, unlike other sections of the budget, no reductions or efficiency gains had been proposed. Other delegations expressed their support for the proposals since the activities were devoted to priority questions of the Organization, as outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the programme narrative for the section. Several delegations stressed the important role of the activities in reducing the gap between the rich and the poor, and the technology gap between the developed and developing nations. Some delegations appreciated the work performed so far in that direction.

74. Some delegations questioned the need for consultations and experts, while others queried the projected decrease in extrabudgetary resources for the programme and how the decrease would affect its capacity to assist developing countries. Some delegations stressed the need to provide more resources for consultants and experts, especially in such a technical field.

75. Some delegations referred to the establishment and strengthening of regional centres of excellence for promoting cooperation in space technology and its peaceful application.

76. Some delegations questioned the increase of 2.3 per cent in budgetary allocations in the absence of clear objectives. Other delegations emphasized that more resources should be provided for the programmes and activities, which had a great potential for promoting growth and sustainable development.

Conclusions and recommendations

77. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 4, Outer space affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 6. Legal activities

78. At its 27th meeting, on 6 June 1995, the Committee considered section 6, Legal activities, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

79. Some delegations welcomed the significant reduction in the level of resources proposed for legal activities. Others felt that the reduction was more related to the completion of a number of activities than to increased efficiency.

80. A number of delegations considered that the proposed reduction in resources should not adversely affect the effectiveness of the Office of Legal Affairs. Other delegations emphasized that additional tasks assigned to the Office resulting from peace-keeping activities should be taken into account in that context.

81. One delegation expressed disappointment that efforts to convert the United Nations Treaty Information System (UNTIS) database to compact disc read-only memory (CD-ROM) had been unsuccessful. Further efforts to complete the computerization of the system during 1996-1997 were supported by a number of delegations, who anticipated that it would prove cost-effective and produce significant savings in the future.

82. One delegation suggested that consideration be given within the programme of work of the Office to providing assistance on legal issues related to peace-keeping operations to Member States with limited experience in the area.

83. Some delegations expressed concern about the excessive orientation of the workload towards peace-keeping activities, given that the Office had a very important role to play in other areas of United Nations activities.

84. The same delegations emphasized the importance of effective coordination between the Office of Legal Affairs and other departments and offices, and expressed concern that the reduction for external printing might adversely affect the availability of important publications, including the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs.

85. Several delegations emphasized the importance of programme 2, Law of the sea and ocean affairs, with the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 4/ in 1994, and expressed concern as to whether the proposed level of resources would be sufficient to provide for the activities under the programme.

86. One delegation expressed support for completion of the draft code of crimes against peace and the security of mankind during 1996-1997.

87. One delegation questioned the use of the term "reform States" in paragraph 6.62.1 (a).

Conclusions and recommendations

88. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 6, Legal activities, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 7A. Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

89. At its 14th and 15th meetings, on 25 May 1995, the Committee considered section 7A, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

90. A number of delegations expressed concern that the proposed level of resources was not adequate to ensure the full and timely implementation of mandated activities as well as the follow-up activities that had emerged from the World Summit for Social Development and could be expected from the Fourth World Conference on Women. They noted the statement made by the Controller that proposed programme budget section 7A did not include provision of resources for possible future mandated programmes and activities arising out of legislative decisions relating to the World Summit for Social Development or the Fourth World Conference on Women, and that if significant additional activities were subsequently mandated, additional resources would need to be provided for their implementation. Other delegations welcomed the efforts to achieve efficiency savings as well as internal redeployment of resources to allow greater focus on priority programmes such as sustainable development.

91. Some delegations stressed the special importance they attached to the programme on eradication of poverty, in particular in the light of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the objectives of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996).

92. A number of delegations expressed their support for the proposals concerning the follow-up activities related to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and to Agenda 21. 5/

93. Some delegations noted that adequate provision should be provided to the Department to ensure maximum outreach and contact with intergovernmental bodies on policy matters.

Conclusions and recommendations

94. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 7A, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, on the understanding that, should the Assembly adopt any new legislative mandates that established new programmes and activities, adequate resource provision would be proposed to the Assembly for its consideration at the time of its examining and approving the budget.

Section 7B. Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development

95. At its 15th meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Committee considered section 7B, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

96. A number of delegations welcomed the submission by the Secretary-General of a separate section on Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development as requested by the General Assembly. Other delegations recalled their reservation on the question. Some delegations stressed that section 7B should comprise all the activities of the Secretariat included within the framework of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, 6/ the financing of which was to be covered by the regular budget. Other delegations expressed concern that creation of a separate section 7B might diminish flexibility in, adequate accountability with respect to, and control over the implementation of mandated activities, and supported the Secretary-General's view that a separate budget section was not desirable.

97. Many delegations stressed the importance of adhering strictly to the priorities set in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, 2/ in particular, with regard to African economic recovery and relevant programmes, mainly programme 45. They emphasized that the proposed resources under section 7B did not adequately address the needs of Africa and felt that the resources allocated to the Secretariat units responsible for the implementation of programme 45 of the medium-term plan and for the contribution of the United Nations system to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s were not sufficient and should be increased. They underlined, in that connection, the important role of the Secretary-General in the implementation of subprogramme 1, Mobilization of resources, and in ensuring that the organizations of the United Nations system integrated Africa as a priority into their programmes of activity.

98. Some delegations stressed that Member States were faced with increasing difficulty in providing incremental resources and that consequently resources for priority activities would have to be found through internal reallocation and efficiency gains.

99. Some delegations stated that there was a discrepancy between the titles of the subprogrammes and the description of the activities thereunder. They considered, for example, that the proposed scope of activities and resources under subprogramme 3 was insufficient to have an impact in raising awareness about African economic problems.

100. Some delegations considered that the allocation of resources between subprogrammes did not fully reflect priorities within programme 45 and that increased resources should have been allocated to subprogramme 2.

Conclusions and recommendations

101. While welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to rationalize the activities of the Organization, the Committee reaffirmed that priority should continue to be given to Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and

development. The Committee therefore recommended to the General Assembly that it review the level of resources devoted to the implementation of activities related to Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 46/151 of 18 December 1991 and 49/142 of 23 December 1994, and taking into account the enormous needs of Africa.

Section 8. Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis

102. At its 13th meeting, on 24 May 1995, the Committee considered section 8, Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

103. A number of delegations expressed support for the objectives and the scope of the activities proposed for the Department under section 8.

104. Several delegations supported the efforts made for the reorganization and rationalization of the activities and for the redeployment of resources to priority areas. Other delegations considered that the allocation of resources within the section did not adequately reflect the priorities established in the medium-term plan and subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. One delegation doubted that the rapid growth in resources devoted to microeconomic analysis was justified. Some delegations expressed reservations about the need for creating a new Microeconomic and Social Policy Analysis Division within the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, and felt that mandated programmes and activities could be fully implemented within the existing organizational structure of the Department. One delegation suggested that an in-depth evaluation of the activities of the Department be undertaken in the near future. Some delegations indicated that improved coordination between the Department and other departments/offices of the Secretariat was still required.

105. A number of delegations stated that certain activities under programme 12, Global development issues and policies, of the medium-term plan seemed to duplicate and overlap with each other and that a number of subprogrammes of programme 12 could be merged.

106. Several delegations stressed the need to ensure adequate resources for strengthening activities under programme 12 pertaining to the continuing economic and social transformation in countries with economies in transition and the reporting to the General Assembly and to the Security Council on the implementation of multilateral economic sanctions on the effects of unilateral economic coercive measures. In this connection, some delegations supported the creation of the Microeconomic and Social Policy Analysis Division within the Department.

107. Some delegations felt that the level of resources allocated for the implementation of the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development was not sufficient and should be increased. Some delegations considered that the Department should endeavour to strengthen its interaction with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

108. A number of delegations indicated that the activities envisaged in paragraph 8.42 of section 8 relating to socio-economic aspects of post-conflict peace-building were not based on the medium-term plan or any subsequent mandate. They felt that subprogramme 2, Problems and prospects of integrated development, of programme 12 should be reformulated in the light of those observations and that the related resources should be redeployed to priority areas. Other delegations supported the activities proposed in that paragraph.

109. A number of delegations stressed that the programme narrative included in subprogramme 5, Microeconomic issues and policies, of programme 12 did not have legislative mandate and that the subprogramme should be reformulated. However, other delegations stressed that there were duly adopted mandates for these activities.

110. Most delegations supported approval of the programme narrative of the section.

Conclusions and recommendations

111. The Committee was unable to reach agreement on the programme narrative of section 8. It therefore recommended that the General Assembly, when considering the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, review the programme narrative of section 8, paying due attention to the observations in the discussion portion above.

Section 9. Department for Development Support and Management Services

112. At its 14th meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Committee considered section 9, Department for Development Support and Management Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

113. A number of delegations supported the proposed programme of work while some delegations felt that the resources provided to the Department were not commensurate with the importance of the activities provided by it to developing countries.

114. A number of delegations felt that the potential of the Department in technical cooperation activities should be fully realized and emphasized the importance of the coordination of its activities with those of UNDP and other organizations of the United Nations system. Other delegations underlined the need to avoid duplication in the Department's work with respect to that of other United Nations organizations.

115. Several delegations noted the reduction of extrabudgetary resources projected for 1996-1997 and considered that the level of regular budget resources should also have been reduced proportionally. Other delegations stated that the reduction of extrabudgetary resources should have been compensated by an increase in the regular budget resources. One delegation noted that it expected the Department to be affected by the changes mandated by the General Assembly under its resolutions on operational activity, which should lead to a decrease in its recruitment, project management and procurement work,

and was surprised there was no reference to this in the budget. Some delegations requested the Secretariat to present a table illustrative of those activities of the programme that had been suppressed.

116. Several delegations questioned the legislative basis for the transfer of the Department's technical cooperation functions from Geneva to Vienna and the establishment of a Reconstruction and Development Unit at Vienna. Some delegations stressed that the transfer of the Unit to Vienna was justified by its proximity to the countries with economies in transition and by the savings that would be generated. Some delegations felt that the proximity factor was not important. Some delegations considered that the activities of the Unit could duplicate technical cooperation functions of the ECE and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and sought assurances that duplication and overlap would be avoided. Some delegations suggested a review of the United Nations activities in the context of countries with economies in transition and the activities of other organizations in the same area in order to avoid duplication of work.

117. Some delegations felt that under the Public administration and finance programme not enough attention was given to private sector and entrepreneurship development. Other delegations considered that the programme was well-balanced.

118. Some delegations underlined that in the narrative of the Global development issues and policies programme some important issues of the medium-term plan such as rural development, and science and technology for development, had been ignored.

119. Some delegations considered that the Natural resources and Energy programmes should have been presented separately in the fascicle, as they were in the medium-term plan.

120. Some delegations recommended that paragraph 9.34 should be implemented in accordance with relevant paragraphs of the medium-term plan as revised by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992. The same delegations stressed that the references to sustainable human development should be replaced by sustainable development in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Assembly. The same delegations expressed the view that the activities in this section should be carried out at the request of the Governments and on the basis of their interests and national priorities.

121. Some delegations considered that more emphasis should have been placed on the follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development.

Conclusions and recommendations

122. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that, when considering the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, it review the programme narrative of section 9, Department for Development Support and Management Services.

Section 10A. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

123. At its 17th meeting, on 26 May 1995, the Committee considered section 10A, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

124. Several delegations reaffirmed the role of UNCTAD as focal point within the United Nations for integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in areas of trade, investment, science and technology and environment, finance and sustainable development, as laid down in General Assembly resolution 49/99 of 19 December 1994. Several delegations also reiterated the complementarity between the World Trade Organization, which was a rule-making body, and UNCTAD, which was the trade-oriented policy forum.

125. A number of delegations expressed strong support for the integrated global approach of the programme and were concerned that the proposed level of resources might not be adequate to ensure full implementation of the mandated activities programmed. They noted the assurance given by the representative of the Secretary-General that a reduction would not curtail the mandated programmes and activities of UNCTAD. They reaffirmed their support for the important role of UNCTAD in providing research and policy analysis for the developing countries, especially in meeting the new opportunities and in responding to challenges derived from the conclusion and full implementation of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Several delegations stressed that measures that might weaken or undermine the contribution of UNCTAD to the development process of developing countries should be prevented.

126. Some delegations welcomed the proposed reduction of resources and felt that some activities could be phased out, with further streamlining required under programme 13, Trade and development. They expressed regret that UNCTAD had failed to seize the opportunity to rationalize and better prioritize its work.

127. Some delegations welcomed the increased resources allocated for subprogramme 4, Poverty alleviation, of programme 13, but continued to be concerned at the relatively small share in the overall resource allocation for programme 13 despite the importance of the subprogramme. One delegation questioned the increase of resources in poverty eradication, which it believed was not a priority activity of UNCTAD.

128. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of effective follow-up of the outcome of the mid-term global review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s 7/ as expressed in General Assembly resolution 49/98 of 19 December 1994, and were concerned that adequate resources might not be provided under programme 15 for that purpose.

129. A number of delegations stressed the importance of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States 8/ and questioned whether adequate resources had been proposed for related activities.

130. Several delegations expressed support for activities related to land-locked countries, and the need for ensuring that the special problems faced by those countries were addressed and necessary resources appropriated.

131. Several delegations expressed concern at the increase of 15 per cent in resources allocated to subprogramme 8, Privatization, entrepreneurship and competitiveness, and regretted that, in relation to resources, equal treatment was not given to other subprogrammes at the same level of priorities. Some delegations welcomed the increased resources in the section.

132. In response to queries raised by some delegations regarding possible overlapping of the activities of UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization, the Secretariat explained their respective mandates and working relationship, which reflected the complementarity between the two bodies, which were mutually supporting and required for responding to the rapid changes in the world economy. However, some delegations remained of the view that there was potential for duplication and urged that the issue be kept under close review.

133. One delegation recommended that paragraph 10A.56 be amended as follows:

(a) In line 3, the words "entrepreneurship and the strengthening of the private sector" should read "entrepreneurship, including through privatization, and the strengthening of the public and private sectors";

(b) The last sentence of the paragraph should be deleted since there was no legislative mandate for those functions.

Conclusions and recommendations

134. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 10A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, on the basis of assurances from representatives of the Secretariat that the proposed reduction in the level of resources for 1996-1997 would in no way lead to curtailment of any mandated programmes and activities.

135. The Committee also recommended that in considering the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, the General Assembly should give due attention to the opinions expressed by Member States as reflected in the discussion portion above.

Section 10B. International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT

136. At its 17th meeting, on 26 May 1995, the Committee considered section 10B, International Trade Centre UNCTAD/General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

137. Support for the programme, as well as for the strengthening of activities following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round agreements, was expressed.

Conclusions and recommendations

138. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 10B, International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 11. United Nations Environment Programme

139. At its 16th meeting, on 26 May 1995, the Committee considered section 11, United Nations Environment Programme, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

140. Several delegations noted that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was currently in session and that it was reviewing the programme of work of UNEP for the biennium 1996-1997. Some were of the view that the Committee should postpone its review of section 11 to a later date when it could consider it in the light of the outcome of the Council's deliberations and decisions. Others felt that the results of the Council's deliberations could be examined by the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

141. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 11, United Nations Environment Programme, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 12. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

142. At its 16th meeting, on 26 May 1995, the Committee considered section 12, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Conclusions and recommendations

143. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 12, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 13. Crime control

144. At its 16th meeting, on 26 May 1995, the Committee considered section 13, Crime control, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

145. A number of delegations expressed support for the objectives and the scope of activities proposed under section 13.

146. Several delegations considered that allocation of resources within the programme did not fully meet the priorities established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and that subprogrammes 1 and 2 should receive priority attention.

147. Some delegations felt that the proposal for upgrading the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch into a division and for the strengthening of staff resources was not justified by the scope of the activities envisaged for the biennium. One delegation indicated that the resources under the programme should be strengthened through internal redeployment. Other delegations supported the proposals of the Secretary-General. One delegation noted that it did not believe seeking ways and means for the treatment of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)-affected prisoners was appropriate work for the Branch.

148. Some delegations rejected the link between the assistance given to Member States to combat all forms of organized transnational crime and the promotion of the fundamental principles of the maintenance of the rule of law, sound public administration and good governance (para. 13.13 (d)).

149. Some delegations noted the absence of reference to the illegal traffic in children, prostitution and child pornography as new forms of transnational crime and the means that should be taken to prevent, combat and eliminate their causes.

Conclusions and recommendations

150. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, when considering the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, review the programmatic narrative of section 13, Crime control.

Section 14. International drug control

151. At its 16th meeting, on 26 May 1995, the Committee considered section 14, International drug control, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

152. Several delegations expressed their support for the programme of activities under the section.

153. Some delegations considered that within the overall level of resources proposed for the section, increased resources should have been allocated to subprogrammes 3, 6 and 7, in view of their importance for the control of drug abuse. They also questioned the need for the resources for consultants.

154. Some delegations stressed that it was necessary to introduce more balance between the resources allocated to field activities and those allocated to administrative activities.

155. Some delegations emphasized the importance for the developing countries of easy access to the information available in the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), in order for them to strengthen their capacity to control drug abuse and traffic in narcotics. Other delegations questioned the absence of resources from the regular budget for subprogramme 4, Technical cooperation, and expressed concern that the foreseen activities would not be properly endorsed during the biennium under this subprogramme.

Conclusions and recommendations

156. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 14, International drug control, of the proposed programme budget for the 1996-1997 biennium.

Section 15. Economic Commission for Africa

157. At its 18th meeting, on 30 May 1995, the Committee considered section 15, Economic Commission for Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

158. Several delegations expressed concern at the continued decline in resources, in particular extrabudgetary resources, and the negative impact this could have on programme delivery, especially on the implementation of mandated activities, as well as technical cooperation projects.

159. Several delegations expressed the hope that within the proposed level of resources the secretariat of ECA would be able to implement its programmed activities, as contained in the proposed programme budget. They welcomed the reorganization of the secretariat which, with renewed efforts, they hoped would facilitate implementation of the Commission's mandates. They expected the secretariat to compensate for the decline in extrabudgetary resources by increasing the level of resources proposed from the regular budget. They stressed that, in the face of the magnitude of Africa's problems and the enormous efforts the countries of the region were making, the United Nations and the international community should do more to assist Africa. Other delegations said that not enough was being done to streamline existing subprogrammes and to prioritize the use of resources. They could not therefore support the introduction of more posts to be funded from the regular budget. New requirements must be met within existing resources, including through the curtailment of redundant or ineffective programmes. Some delegations sought assurances that the decline in resources would not affect the quality of programme delivery, the Commission's capacity for coordination and activities related to regional cooperation.

160. Some delegations called on the secretariat of ECA, taking advantage of its unique position to contribute to the development of Africa, to endeavour further to develop a new African strategy for development, promote intraregional trade and strengthen and improve its database. They also pointed to the need for ECA to evaluate its work from time to time and, among other things, to continue to implement the relevant recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services contained in the report on the programme and administrative practices of the secretariats of the regional commissions (A/49/891, annex).

161. Some delegations expressed their preference for the activities of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) to be funded through the regular budget so as to ascertain its viability and continuity.

Conclusions and recommendations

162. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 15, Economic Commission for Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 16. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

163. At its 19th meeting, on 30 May 1995, the Committee considered section 16, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

164. Several delegations expressed satisfaction with the increased level of resources proposed, while other delegations felt that there was a need for strengthening further the priority areas of work. Some delegations, while welcoming the priority attached to programmes on poverty alleviation and for least developed countries, felt that they could have been strengthened further.

165. Some delegations highlighted the need to avoid duplication of work with respect to other bodies of the United Nations system and stated that the efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission's work practices must be improved before additional resources or authority were devolved to it.

166. Some delegations welcomed the initiative of the Commission to increase the use of its conference facilities and streamline its meetings schedule.

Conclusions and recommendations

167. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 16, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 17. Economic Commission for Europe

168. At its 19th meeting, on 30 May 1995, the Committee considered section 17, Economic Commission for Europe, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

169. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of the activities proposed under section 17 and supported the programme of work and the level of resources.

170. Some delegations stressed the importance of coordinating activities with other United Nations entities, and in particular with regional organizations, in order to avoid duplication of work.

171. Some delegations felt that there was a need for further streamlining of resources in non-priority areas and their redeployment to designated high-priority areas. They also considered that the activities of some ECE bodies should be reviewed. Other delegations stressed the need to ensure adequate resources for all mandated activities of ECE, in particular for the development of cooperation in the field of industry and technology.

172. Many delegations expressed support for the proposal under section 9, Department for Development Support and Management Services, to establish a Unit at Vienna. In this connection, other delegations regretted that the Secretary-General had proposed an activity at Vienna to support the reconstruction and development of the central and eastern European countries, without any legislative mandate. They emphasized that such functions could be developed under the activities of ECE. Some delegations regretted that the Secretariat had not given precise and sufficient information to Member States in order to enable them to identify the gains related to effectiveness and productivity that would arise from the transferring of those functions from Geneva to Vienna.

173. Many delegations emphasized the importance of further orientation and development of the activities of ECE for the purposes of economic and social transformation in the countries with economies in transition.

Conclusions and recommendations

174. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 17, Economic Commission for Europe, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 18. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

175. At its 20th meeting, on 31 May 1995, the Committee considered section 18, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

176. Several delegations supported the programme of work and the proposed level of resources, while expressing concern at the decrease in the level of extrabudgetary resources. Some delegations were concerned about the limited resources assigned to some subprogrammes, in particular subprogramme 14, Regional integration and cooperation. Other delegations expressed their belief that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) needed restructuring to ensure a more cost-effective and targeted work programme. More attention needed to be paid by the Commission to the changes in the economic environment of the region and to strengthening links with the private sector.

177. Many delegations considered that increased resources should have been proposed for the programme. Other delegations argued that no additional resources or responsibilities should be devolved to ECLAC until it could demonstrate that it was making efficient and effective use of existing resources.

178. A number of delegations requested an explanation about the parameters used for the recosting, which appeared to be too high in comparison with the level of recosting in other regional commissions.

179. A number of delegations welcomed the efforts by the Secretary-General to reduce the rental cost for the premises of the office at Mexico City.

180. Several delegations stressed the need to ensure coordination of the ECLAC programme of work with that of other organizations within the United Nations system in order to avoid duplication.

181. Some delegations expressed concern regarding the timing of submission of ECLAC documentation in all the official languages of the Commission.

182. One delegation expressed concern at the inclusion of concepts such as governability, capacity for government, decentralization and local government (para. 18.28) without properly defining the role of government in this connection.

Conclusions and recommendations

183. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 18, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

184. The Committee also recommended that, when implementing paragraph 18.28, the Secretariat develop the activities mentioned therein upon the request of interested Governments on the basis of the interests and national priorities of Member States.

Section 19. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

185. At its 20th meeting, on 31 May 1995, the Committee considered section 19, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

186. Many delegations expressed their support for the programme activities and welcomed the new thematic approach adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the reorganization of its secretariat. Some delegations expressed the hope that the reorganization would lead to a more effective use of ESCWA resources, with greater attention being paid to priority activities.

187. Some delegations considered that subprogramme 2, Improvement of the quality of life, should be designated high priority and that ESCWA should avoid duplication of work with other organizations in the region.

188. Some delegations requested information about the timing and resource implications of the transfer of ESCWA headquarters to Beirut.

189. Some delegations asked whether the reorganization of the ESCWA secretariat had been completed. Other delegations welcomed the assurances by the Secretariat that the reorganization was in compliance with the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services contained in the report on the programme and administrative practices of the secretariats of the regional commissions (A/49/891, annex).

190. Some delegations rejected the inclusion in paragraph 19.14 of "(c) to regionalize human development concepts and indices" as an objective. They

considered that those concepts and indices had no mandates, since the General Assembly in its resolution 49/123 of 19 December 1994 had stated clearly that the Human Development Report was not an official document of the United Nations.

Conclusions and recommendations

191. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 19, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 20. Regular programme of technical cooperation

192. At its 21st meeting, on 31 May 1995, the Committee considered section 20, Regular programme of technical cooperation, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

193. A number of delegations expressed their support for the proposals under this section. They stressed that the proposed activities and resources should be considered complementary to the activities and resources under other related budget sections.

194. Some delegations noted the difficulty in identifying activities in the section and felt that more detailed information should be provided in that respect. In particular, they sought assurances that the bulk of the money spent under this programme would be devoted to the least developed and poorest countries. Other delegations recognized that the activities under this section were by nature difficult to programme.

195. Some delegations underlined that activities related to technical cooperation should be financed by extrabudgetary resources. Other delegations considered that the activities under section 20 contributed to the development of developing countries and expressed their support for the financing of these activities through the regular budget in order to ensure that they were placed on a sound and assured financial basis.

196. Some delegations queried the relationship of the activities under this section with similar activities carried out by other United Nations programmes and sought assurance that there would be no overlapping or duplication of efforts in this regard. Some delegations advocated this programme's being fundamentally reviewed and modified in order to respond more fully to the current requirements for technical cooperation. Other delegations stressed that this section was useful and provided the necessary flexibility to satisfy the emerging priorities of developing countries.

Conclusions and recommendations

197. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 20, Regular programme of technical cooperation, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 21. Human rights

198. At its 22nd and 23rd meetings, on 1 June 1995, the Committee considered section 21, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

199. Many delegations supported the proposed programme of work and the proposed increases in resources. Many other delegations felt that the increase proposed was inadequate and more resources were needed in general in this important field and in order to reflect the expansion of activities following the World Conference on Human Rights. Many delegations regretted that priority areas in the economic and social sectors had not received similar proposals for increases, while recognizing the importance of the activities in the field of human rights, and expressed their concern at the increase in resources proposed for this sector. Other delegations expressed their concern that technical advisory assistance operations might not be adequately funded.

200. A number of delegations questioned the legislative basis for the budget proposal as contained in section 21, since the revisions to programme 35 and section 21 of the revised budget estimates of the 1994-1995 programme budget had not been approved by the General Assembly. Other delegations pointed out that the legislative mandate for the budget proposal was derived from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly.

201. Some delegations questioned the proposed level of resources under subprogrammes 2 and 4, and felt that the resources should be more equally distributed among subprogrammes. Some delegations expressed concern about the lower level of resources allocated to subprogramme 2 from the regular budget in relation to the higher level from extrabudgetary resources and underlined, in particular, that insufficient resources had been allocated to implement the goals and objectives of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/228 of 23 December 1993. Other delegations welcomed the emphasis on subprogramme 1, which had been designated high priority by the Assembly, and expressed the hope that the activities envisaged under subprogramme 4 would draw fully on expertise existing elsewhere, including outside the United Nations system.

202. Many delegations considered that the programme of work regarding the integration of human rights concerns into economic and social development activities was not legislatively mandated. Many delegations expressed the view that the programme had been mandated by the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 3/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights.

203. Many delegations noted that, despite having been emphasized in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the activities regarding the right to development were not adequately reflected in the proposed programme of work and that the right to development should, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, be addressed in a separate subprogramme. In that context, they insisted that programme 35 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, 2/ should be redrafted to provide an effective programmatic follow-up of the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development 9/ as part of the efforts to implement the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. Many other delegations felt that the issue had been adequately addressed under the relevant subprogrammes, in the same manner as for

other individual human rights, none of which could or should be confined to a single subprogramme.

204. Many delegations felt that the responsibilities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and those of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights were well defined and mutually reinforcing. Some delegations opined that the respective responsibilities and mandates of the two senior officials should be further reviewed and clarified.

205. A number of delegations considered that the ongoing restructuring of the programme and the reorganization of the Centre for Human Rights were useful and effective, and were in line with the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, as reflected in the report on the programme and administrative practices of the Centre submitted by a team of the Office (A/49/892, annex). Other delegations felt that those actions were not sufficient and that much remained to be done to increase efficiency and to eliminate any duplication or overlapping of activities. They further emphasized the need for the expeditious implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights.

206. Many delegations emphasized that the activities in the field of human rights, including the right to development, should be for the well-being of all humankind and that an integrated approach should be developed to guarantee balanced attention to all human rights, on the basis of the principles of objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity, as set out in section I, paragraph 32, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. They emphasized that the programme narrative did not refer to all the relevant mandates and omitted a number of important issues contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in particular in the area of economic and social rights. They stressed that the different proposals and ideas reflected in section 21, particularly in paragraphs 21.2, 21.6, 21.23 and 21.27 (b) and (c), should be redrafted to reflect the mandates, letter and spirit of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

207. Other delegations insisted that the budget proposals correctly sought to implement the whole Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and all other mandates. They disagreed with attempts to pick and choose between mandates and were of the opinion that the budget proposals should therefore be approved in their entirety.

208. Some delegations reiterated their strong support for the establishment of a comprehensive programme in order to help Member States in strengthening the institutions of the rule of law as contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and General Assembly resolutions 48/132 of 20 December 1993 and 49/194 of 23 December 1994. Those delegations emphasized that adequate resources should be allocated for the programme.

209. Delegations welcomed the inclusion in the programme of work of the legislative mandates approved since 1992. Several delegations expressed regret that the revisions proposed in 1994 to programme 35 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 were still under review by the General Assembly and could not provide the framework for section 21.

210. Many delegations supported the proposed conversion of posts, noting that for the most part they did not amount to additional human resources and that the regularization of the posts would have a beneficial impact on morale and efficiency at the Centre for Human Rights. Many other delegations felt that the

21 new posts approved as temporary by the General Assembly in section III of its resolution 49/219 of 23 December 1994 should not be proposed for conversion into established posts until ACABQ had commented further.

211. Many delegations stressed that the resources for the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families should have been redeployed to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights instead of being surrendered. Some delegations expressed concern about the lack of clarity on the resources that should be allocated to the promotion of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 10/ as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/175 of 23 December 1994.

212. Some delegations emphasized the need to improve the coordination of activities in the field of human rights undertaken by different entities of the Organization.

Conclusions and recommendations

213. The Committee was unable to reach agreement on a recommendation to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 21, Human rights. It therefore recommended to the Assembly that, when considering the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, it review the programme narrative of section 21, paying due attention to the observations in paragraphs 199-212 above.

Section 22. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

214. At its 23rd meeting, on 1 June 1995, the Committee considered section 22, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

215. General support was expressed for the programme of work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Some delegations considered that the primary mandate of the Office was the protection of refugees and that activities undertaken in the context of the continuum from rehabilitation to development should not be considered part of the permanent functions of the Office. Other delegations sought information on the prevention activities undertaken by the Office.

216. Some delegations requested clarification as regards the discrepancy in the level of the total resources projected to be available for the next biennium indicated in the fascicle and that reported to the Executive Committee.

217. Several delegations expressed their concern as regards the decline in the level of extrabudgetary resources projected for the biennium 1996-1997. At the same time, they questioned the rationale for the increase in the number of extrabudgetary posts.

Conclusions and recommendations

218. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 22, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 23. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

219. At its 23rd meeting, on 1 June 1995, the Committee considered section 23, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

220. Many delegations endorsed the move of UNRWA headquarters from Vienna to the Gaza Strip. One delegation indicated its opposition to financing the move from programme resources.

221. Many delegations noted that, following the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, 11/ and in preparation for the extension of the self-governing Palestinian Authority to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and pending the completion of the Middle East peace process, UNRWA would continue to undertake its Peace Implementation Programme and to play an active role in the region. Some delegations looked forward to a broader sharing of the costs of the Agency during the period.

Conclusions and recommendations

222. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 23, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 24. Department of Humanitarian Affairs

223. At its 28th meeting, on 6 June 1995, the Committee considered section 24, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

224. Many delegations recalled the objectives enshrined in General Assembly resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994 and 49/22 B of 20 December 1994 and expressed the hope that the Department of Humanitarian Affairs would enhance its efforts to meet the purposes for which it had been established.

225. Delegations expressed strong support for the programme on emergency humanitarian assistance, and the importance of providing adequate regular budget resources for its implementation.

226. Many delegations expressed concern with the decline in the level of extrabudgetary resources projected to be available in 1996-1997. They considered that the Department's activities should be funded on a more secure and predictable basis. Some delegations emphasized the need to secure continuous funding for important activities such as the early warning systems.

227. Some delegations regretted the use of new terms in the programme narrative, such as "humanitarian diplomacy" and "humanitarian advocate". One delegation welcomed the use of new terms like "humanitarian diplomacy", which was understood to mean diplomacy in the service of humanitarian assistance. Some delegations regretted the use of the word "intervención" in the Spanish text and requested an accurate translation of the word used in the English and French texts. Some delegations questioned the Department's mandate for demining activities.

228. Some delegations welcomed the inclusion of the "White Helmets" initiative in the activities to be performed in subprogramme 1, Policy planning and development, and its legislative mandate based on General Assembly resolution 49/139 B of 20 December 1994. In that regard, it was mentioned that additional operative guidelines should be established by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 (July 1995). Other delegations expressed their concern about the usefulness of the initiative in complex emergency situations.

229. A number of delegations suggested that the respective responsibilities of the New York and Geneva offices should be more clearly defined.

230. Some delegations emphasized the interrelationship between natural disaster reduction and development and stressed that natural disaster reduction strategies should cover the continuum from relief to development.

231. Some delegations stressed the importance of information component in natural disaster measures and requested that information related to natural disaster prevention should be easily accessible for all countries.

Conclusions and recommendations

232. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 24, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Section 25. Public information

233. At its 24th meeting, on 2 June 1995, the Committee considered section 25, Public information, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

234. Several delegations expressed satisfaction with the proposed reductions in the budget of the Department of Public Information. Some delegations stressed that further reductions could have been achieved through greater economy

measures and improved productivity. Many delegations stated that budget reductions should not be seen as an end in themselves and emphasized concern that such reductions could have a negative impact on the programme of work of the Department. They sought clear assurances from the Secretariat in that regard.

235. Many delegations stressed the need for adequate resources to be allocated to provide back-stopping for public information activities of peace-keeping missions and made reference to the recommendations contained in the report on the evaluation of peace-keeping operations (E/AC.51/1995/2 and Corr.1). They expressed concern that no separate unit, either in the Department of Public Information or the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, had been identified to provide such support. Many other delegations emphasized their support for the Secretary-General's decision to assign responsibility for the information component of the peace-keeping operations to the Department of Public Information. One delegation emphasized that any increase for that purpose should be achieved through internal redeployment of resources.

236. Several delegations emphasized the importance of the role of information in raising public awareness of issues facing the Organization and its members. Many delegations suggested that while a significant level of resources were assigned to cover issues of peace and security, more emphasis should be placed on coverage of economic and social concerns, including issues of debt, trade and poverty, and urged the Department to strive for a balance between activities relating to peace-keeping and those relating to development. Other delegations felt that insufficient resources were being devoted to information on peace and security-related activities given their impact on public perceptions of the Organization.

237. Several delegations emphasized the importance of the work of the United Nations information centres and services in promoting a greater understanding of the issues facing the Organization and of its activities. Several delegations queried the growth proposed in the resources of the Information Service at Geneva and emphasized the importance of a clearer division of responsibility between the Information Services at Geneva and Vienna.

238. Many delegations commended the Department on its efforts in utilizing electronic media as an efficient and cost-effective method of implementing its work programme and felt that greater economies could be achieved through a greater concentration on such electronic media. Many other delegations emphasized the importance of responding to the needs of developing countries in that context, since access to such media was relatively limited. They stressed the importance of giving continuing attention to radio and print media.

239. Some delegations emphasized the need for a periodic review of the Department's publications programme with a view to identifying obsolete publications. Some other delegations stressed that any revision to the mandated programme of work of the Department would have to be endorsed by the General Assembly.

240. Many delegations emphasized the importance of achieving parity in the production of outputs in the working languages of the Organization and emphasized the importance of the use of all United Nations languages. Some delegations stressed that, to reach as large an audience as possible, more items and material should be produced, as far as possible, in local languages.

Conclusions and recommendations

241. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 25, Public information, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

B. Evaluation

1. In-depth evaluation of the programme on environment

242. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, held on 15 and 16 May 1995, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on environment, transmitted to it under cover of a note by the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1995/3).

Discussion

243. Several delegations noted that the Governing Council of UNEP was in session simultaneously with CPC, considering the policy and operational functions of UNEP, and stressed that the report before CPC should be examined by the Governing Council of UNEP.

244. In the course of the debate, delegations noted that the Secretary-General was in agreement with the recommendations in the report and made observations on the following recommendations:

(a) Recommendations 1, 2 and 3. Delegations supported the broad goals of these recommendations, which were for UNEP to (i) reinforce its catalytic role, (ii) enhance its environmental coordinating activities within the United Nations system; and (iii) facilitate its capacity to address emerging environmental issues. Several delegations recommended that UNEP should strengthen its support to the Commission on Sustainable Development and its secretariat. Other delegations also considered that UNEP should concentrate on the environmental aspects of sustainable development;

(b) Recommendations 4 through 9. Several delegations commented that UNEP should continue and enhance its role as the environmental conscience of the world through its assessment and Earthwatch coordinating activities by providing credible scientific information on the state of the environment. The need to develop the capacity of developing countries to assess the environment was stressed. Several delegations noted the need to coordinate the development of agreed environmental indicators with the Commission on Sustainable Development and other organizations working on the subject. Delegations agreed that the title of recommendation 9 should read "An internationally agreed set of indicators";

(c) Recommendations 10 through 13. Several delegations stressed the importance of environmental law. They also noted the need to coordinate and provide adequate managerial support to the secretariats of the conventions;

(d) Recommendations 14 and 15. Several delegations supported UNEP's role in capacity-building and welcomed the efforts to strengthen the cooperation and coordination between UNEP and UNDP in this field. Some delegations emphasized that this role in particular was of special importance for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Several delegations considered that

UNEP's regional offices could play a useful role in helping developing countries to strengthen their capacity to implement Agenda 21. 5/ Some delegations stressed that the role of UNEP in providing information on sustainable development should be concentrated on environmental aspects of such development and that such information should be prepared upon the request of Governments. Delegations agreed that the implementation of the proposals of recommendation 15 should be carried out in close consultation with Governments and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992;

(e) Recommendation 16. A number of delegations commented on the need for new and additional resources for the training of personnel in developing countries; they felt that UNEP expertise could be drawn upon more extensively. One delegation considered that additional resources would be required for the implementation of environmental programmes or recommendations; such resources were frequently not available to those countries;

(f) Recommendations 17 through 19. Some delegations commented on the need for UNEP to target its information activities towards specific audiences;

(g) Recommendation 20. Delegations stressed that the current location of UNEP headquarters should be maintained and that there was a need to improve communication facilities at UNEP headquarters. Several delegations commented on the need to strengthen the UNEP regional presence, without weakening its headquarters. Some delegations expressed support for the outposting of certain headquarters units to regional offices as recommended;

(h) Recommendation 21. Delegations commented on the need for UNEP to work more closely with non-governmental organizations. Some delegations observed that this should not entail creating new organizational structures;

(i) Recommendation 22. Many delegations agreed that there was a need for a more effective fund-raising strategy, utilizing existing financial mechanisms;

(j) Recommendation 23. This recommendation was widely supported. One delegation commented that the proposed report by the Office of Internal Oversight Services on UNEP management could provide a useful background for the special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21 scheduled for 1997.

Conclusions and recommendations

245. The Committee expressed appreciation for the quality and comprehensive nature of the report.

246. The Committee was in general agreement with the main thrust of the report, which was to refocus UNEP activities by strengthening its partnership with other organizations within and outside the United Nations system, with due regard to its role as a global environment programme. Subject to the different views expressed by the delegations during the discussion, and subject to the subsequent views of the Governing Council of UNEP, the Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in the report.

247. The report on the study to be carried out by the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the effects of the reorganization of UNEP, proposed in recommendation 23, should be submitted to CPC for its consideration at its thirty-seventh session in 1997.

248. The Committee decided that the report, together with the conclusions and recommendations of CPC thereon, should be transmitted to the Governing Council of UNEP at its eighteenth session for consideration and appropriate action.

2. Final report on the in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping operations: start-up phase

249. At its 2nd and 4th meetings, on 15 and 16 May 1995, the Committee considered the final report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping operations: start-up phase, transmitted by the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1995/2 and Corr.1).

Discussion

250. Some delegations stressed that in accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 49/37 of 9 December 1994, the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters that were essentially within domestic jurisdiction of any State should be strictly respected in all aspects of peace-keeping operations.

251. Some delegations observed that the Committee's request at the first part of its thirty-fourth session on the progress report on the in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping operations: start-up phase (E/AC.51/1994/3 and Corr.1) to the effect that the General Assembly should be given a statement of programme budget implications to permit it to review the recommendations of the progress report during the Assembly's forty-ninth session had not yet been complied with.

252. In that connection, the representative of the Secretary-General recalled that statements of programme budget implications were provided to intergovernmental bodies only when they were considering draft resolutions or decisions whose adoption would have such implications. Statements had never been prepared in respect of reports emanating from the Secretariat, nor had they been presented to CPC. In the past, when approval of recommendations of the Committee had had programme budget implications, a statement of programme budget implications would have been presented with the report of the Committee for consideration by the General Assembly.

253. The representative of the Secretary-General also recalled that the programme planning regulations and rules provided that the findings of intergovernmental review of evaluations should be reflected in subsequent programme design, delivery and policy directives. In preparing their proposals for the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, programme managers were aware of the results of the current and earlier evaluation studies. Non-core activities related to peace-keeping could also be financed by the support account for peace-keeping activities or by the budgets of peace-keeping operations, but these would not, in any case, be included in the statement of programme budget implications.

254. Delegations welcomed the clarification and understood from the statement that the matter should not hinder the Committee in reviewing and making recommendations with respect to the evaluation. In that regard some delegations expressed the opinion that recommendations 1-24 of the progress report (E/AC.51/1994/3 and Corr.1) could not be implemented owing to the lack of a decision of the General Assembly thereon.

255. Several members, in commenting on the factors to be taken into consideration in the establishment of new peace-keeping operations cited in the final report (E/AC.51/1995/2 and Corr.1, para. 12), stated that the existence of regional capacities should not detract from the obligation of the international community to actively support such operations. They also reaffirmed the central responsibility of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, for the maintenance of international peace and security as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

256. A number of delegations stressed the intergovernmental nature of peace-keeping and the need for strengthening mechanisms and modalities for consultation with troop-contributing countries, ensuring financial viability of operations before their start-up, uniformity of command and control and improving reimbursement procedures to troop-contributing countries. One delegation noted that a distinction should be made on the issue of command and control: that command of a troop-contributing country's military contingent was a prerogative of its head of State, and that the United Nations had responsibility for the chain of operational control of every aspect of peace-keeping missions. Some other delegations, while noting the responsibility of Member States for the readiness and effectiveness of troops provided to peace-keeping operations, emphasized the importance of enhancing the effectiveness of peace-keeping operations, in particular the time-lag between authorization and deployment. In that context a number of suggestions were made. These included the provision of command modules or specialized units, the establishment of guidelines for minimal training standards and stockpiles of standard equipment to be made available to peace-keeping forces prior to deployment.

257. Many delegations noted that the consent of the parties concerned, impartiality and the non-use of force, except in self-defence, which the Secretary-General had identified in his supplement to "An Agenda for Peace": position paper of the Secretary-General on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations (A/50/60-S/1995/1), were critical to the success of peace-keeping operations. Some delegations noted that complete and continuous support and cooperation with peace-keeping operations by all the concerned parties was also an important prerequisite of their success. Some delegations also noted that a peace-keeping operation could only be commenced or terminated through an express decision of the Security Council.

258. Several delegations expressed concern that the evaluation report assumed that the Electoral Assistance Division had been moved from the Department of Political Affairs to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat (A/49/336). While noting that the shift was not reflected in the Secretary-General's budget proposals for 1996-1997, the delegations stressed their opposition to any such move which would, in their view, be in violation of the existing legislative mandate approved by the General Assembly, and regretted that the Office of Internal Oversight Services had not called the attention of the Secretariat to that violation, in line with its responsibilities as enunciated in Assembly resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994. Other delegations expressed the view that a shift of the Electoral Assistance Division to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations could improve its effectiveness.

259. Several members noted that there was no legislative basis for the listing of components of complex missions in the report contained in document E/AC.51/1995/2 and Corr.1 and considered that certain recommendations were beyond the competence of CPC. Others noted the statement in paragraph 22 that the listing of the six substantive components of peace-keeping missions in the

report was for the purposes of reviewing the Secretariat's ready capacity to act. The representative of the Secretariat explained that such a listing did not imply that all of those components would be part of all missions. Many delegations expressed the view that only the mandate as defined by the Security Council provided the basis for specific components to be included in a particular peace-keeping operation.

260. Delegations noted that the report had been reviewed by the relevant departments and offices. Many delegations expressed their support for the report and its recommendations which if implemented would improve the effectiveness of peace-keeping operations. Many other delegations expressed reservations with regard to some recommendations.

261. Delegations made observations on the following recommendations:

(a) Recommendation 1. Responsibility for learning from experience in peace-keeping. Delegations stated that the process proposed in the recommendation would greatly help in improving peace-keeping operations on an ongoing basis and should be expeditiously put in place;

(b) Recommendation 2. Allocation of responsibilities for support functions for peace-keeping. Commenting on the text leading to recommendation 2, several delegations expressed an interest in the forthcoming consolidated official statement on the allocation of functions and responsibilities for the support of peace-keeping operations between the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and the Department of Administration and Management;

(c) Recommendation 3. Responsibility for the coordination of a ready capacity to act for peace-keeping operations. Several delegates stated that the responsibilities for the various substantive and support functions should be clearly allocated so that coordination could then be facilitated;

(d) Recommendation 4. The information component of peace-keeping missions. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services informed the Committee that the Secretary-General was not in favour of the recommendation and had assigned responsibility for the information component to the Department of Public Information. He added that he intended to take the matter up again with the Secretary-General. Many delegations stated that, given the crucial role to be played by public information in peace-keeping operations, it was necessary to develop a capacity within the Secretariat to back-stop the information component of such operations. Several delegations supported the proposal that such a unit should be established within the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. Several other delegations considered that the Department of Public Information should undertake such functions; they expressed surprise that after having informed the Committee that the Secretary-General did not agree with the recommendation and had made a decision on the matter, the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services had maintained his position. Other delegations considered the expression of an independent opinion by the Office of Internal Oversight Services to be entirely appropriate. Some delegations observed that a possible solution would be to have a joint unit for that purpose. One delegation pointed out that the Committee on Information had before it a paper containing a review of the Secretariat's policy on dissemination of information related to peace-keeping; from that paper it appeared that the professional expertise and existing infrastructure in the Department of Public Information remained largely untapped and its involvement in conceptualizing, planning, implementing and coordinating the information

programmes of field operations had so far been minimal. Other delegations noted that the key was for the job to be done; if, despite the apparent expertise of the Department of Public Information, it was not being done, then it was legitimate to suggest that other avenues be explored;

(e) Recommendation 5. Human rights component. Several delegations stressed that human rights was not one of the components of any peace-keeping operation unless it was specifically mandated by the relevant legislative bodies and felt that that recommendation should be deliberated upon by the competent intergovernmental bodies. Several other delegations considered that the Department of Peace-keeping Operations should be the responsibility centre, with the Centre for Human Rights acting in an advisory capacity. Several delegations supported the designation of the Centre for Human Rights as the responsibility centre for that component of peace-keeping operations;

(f) Recommendation 8. Planning for stand-by arrangements and recommendation 14. Plan for rapid reaction capacity. One delegation welcomed recommendations 8 and 14 and underlined the linkage and the complementarity of both issues;

(g) Recommendation 9. Review of United Nations early warning activities and Recommendation 10. Early warning focal point in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. Several delegations expressed the view that activities of the Secretariat in the field of early warning should be streamlined and "extra" layers of coordination avoided. They also noted that those activities should be based on existing mechanisms with due regard to the role of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in that matter. At the same time they deemed it necessary to refer recommendations 9 and 10 to relevant intergovernmental bodies. Several delegations stated that coordination in the Organization with respect to the early warning system should be enhanced for its effective operation. Delegations underscored that the United Nations should do more to narrow down the origin of conflicts and to attempt to avoid them by integrating in a coherent system all the early warning activities of the United Nations;

(h) Recommendation 16. Analytical system for budgeting peace-keeping operations. Several delegations supported the approach proposed and looked forward to reviewing the prototype recommended;

(i) Recommendation 17. Security of personnel. Delegations stressed the importance of the security of personnel in the context of peace-keeping operations, for both regular United Nations personnel and personnel on secondment from national authorities and from non-governmental organizations;

(j) Recommendation 18. Standard operating procedures for logistics and procurement and recommendation 19. Office of Internal Oversight Services review of compliance in logistics and procurement. Many delegations stated that logistics and procurement were support areas where improvements were needed, and noted that the General Assembly would receive reports on those areas by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in response to section IX of Assembly resolution 49/233 of 23 December 1994 and by the Secretary-General in response to paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 49/216 C of 23 December 1994. Delegations were of the opinion that the relevant decisions of the Assembly on the forthcoming reports should be incorporated into any review and revision of existing procedures;

(k) Recommendation 20. Training guidelines and recommendation 21. Training plan. Several delegations reiterated the importance of training and

agreed that the primary responsibility for training personnel assigned to peace-keeping duties rested with Governments. They also stated that the United Nations should contribute to such training by establishing guidelines and standards and training trainers. One delegation expressed reservations concerning the role of the United Nations in establishing such guidelines and training plans for the training of personnel from intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and other organizations contributing personnel to United Nations peace-keeping operations, since there had been no decisions on that issue by the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

262. The Committee commended the report, which it found to be comprehensive and informative.

263. The Committee endorsed recommendations 1-3, 6-8 and 13-19.

264. The Committee concluded that recommendations 5 and 9-12 needed to be examined further by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

265. The Committee endorsed recommendations 20 and 21 in so far as the training guidelines and the peace-keeping training plan were to be drawn up by the Secretariat for military and civilian personnel from the Secretariat. The Committee felt that the need for the Secretariat to draw up similar guidelines in respect of personnel contributed by cooperating intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and other organizations contributing personnel to United Nations peace-keeping operations required further examination by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations.

266. With respect to recommendation 4, the Committee recognized the importance of information in peace-keeping operations and recommended that the Secretary-General take all necessary measures to provide adequate support to that area.

267. The Committee recalled General Assembly resolution 49/37, in particular paragraph 8, and suggested that, in the context of the comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all its aspects, the issue regarding possible components of peace-keeping operations should, among others, continue to be discussed by the Assembly.

IV. COORDINATION QUESTIONS

Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

268. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 17 May 1995, the Committee considered the annual overview report of ACC for 1994 (E/1995/21) and the report of the twenty-eighth series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC, held on 27 October 1994 (E/1995/4).

Discussion

269. Delegations emphasized the importance of CPC as a main organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council devoted to coordination matters. They consequently argued that enhanced coordination should lead to a need for fewer resources. Other members questioned whether the Committee had any added value to offer in the role of coordination given the expanded role of the Council. A number of other delegations expressed the view that the objective of coordination should be to improve programme delivery, enhance cooperation and avoid duplication, and any cost savings should only be seen as a by-product of the process. Other members indicated that an enhanced level of coordination should be followed by an increase in resources, as improved coordination by itself could not meet the growing demands being placed on the system.

270. Many delegations considered the report as a good basis for discussion on coordination within the United Nations system. Some members considered that the report was too descriptive in nature and not critical enough of some of the difficult challenges facing some of the organizations of the system. In the context of its discussion under the item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", a number of members expressed the view that the documentation under the coordination items should have a better focus on the coordination issues of primary concern to CPC.

271. Some members expressed the opinion that the General Assembly should remain the central forum for developing cooperation and coordination. Some members expressed the view that the role of the regional commissions should be strengthened, particularly on issues that called for collaborative actions at the subregional and regional levels. Other members said that the regional commissions must undergo further reforms before additional resources or authority could be devolved to them.

272. With respect to the issue of division of labour and access to resources, some members cited the fact that there was a world-wide trend of reduction of resources at the national level, thereby leaving fewer resources available for the provision of assistance. Other delegations, however, believed that more resources were required to address development issues more effectively.

273. With reference to African economic recovery and development, several members emphasized the need for concrete actions in support of African development. Some members noted the decline in official development assistance (ODA) flows to Africa and the need for the fulfilment of financial commitments and pledges to African countries. Regarding the issue of debt, some members suggested that a comprehensive strategy should be developed. Some members

pointed out that the issues of development of human resources and the promotion of agriculture should be assigned high priority within the context of achieving economic recovery and development in Africa.

274. Several members expressed the need for a coordinated follow-up on the implementation of the declarations and conclusions of major conferences such as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development. They welcomed the initiative of setting up a framework for the follow-up to these conferences and requested information on an outline of such a framework.

275. Some delegations expressed their concern that the contents of paragraph 60, subparagraphs (a), (c) and (e), of the annual overview report (E/1995/21) dealing with the question of human rights might not be based on the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 3/ and might involve conditionality. It was clarified by the Secretariat that these provisions were based on the mandate emanating from the Vienna Conference and did not imply any conditionality.

276. With respect to the preparations for the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women, some delegations requested information on the status of the ad hoc inter-agency meeting on women, and inquired about arrangements for regularizing that body. The Secretariat clarified that this matter would be addressed after the Beijing Conference.

277. Several members commended the information contained in the annual overview report (E/1995/21, paras. 71-80) on assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations. Some delegations expressed the view that the problems of third countries arising from the impact of economic sanctions needed to be covered fully in future overview reports.

278. Several members expressed their concern regarding the delay in the completion of the study by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) of the application of the Noblemaire principle. They stated that ICSC should complete the report as soon as possible. Other members expressed concern about the comments made under the section dealing with the application of the Noblemaire principle and said that they could not endorse them. A number of delegations also welcomed the development of a prototype appraisal system and urged that it be used by all organizations of the system since it would very likely enhance the competitiveness of the staff. Some representatives welcomed the initiative of ACC on the status of women in the secretariats of the United Nations system. They also took note of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel (General Assembly resolution 49/59, annex).

279. Several members expressed their concern about the financial situation of the organizations of the United Nations system and stated the importance for Member States of fulfilling their financial and budgetary commitments in a timely manner. Some delegations requested information on the statement included in paragraph 96 of the annual overview report (E/1995/21), dealing with standards for the harmonization of financial statements.

280. On the need for identification of the theme for the next series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC of 1995, several delegations supported the proposal to have a substantive discussion on the means of improving system-wide collaboration in the field of drug control, particularly since the issue had been the subject of discussion at the first regular session of ACC of 1995, and would also be discussed in the coordination segment of the substantive session

of 1995 of the Economic and Social Council in June-July 1995, and therefore provided an opportunity for having a dialogue between CPC and ACC. Other delegations suggested the theme of the eradication of poverty. A few delegations proposed the theme of the role of the United Nations in the development of Africa. One delegation proposed the consideration of the oversight functions within the United Nations system. Some delegations made a number of suggestions to improve the working arrangements for the joint meetings with a view to promoting genuine dialogue among participants, as reflected in the recommendation part of the item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

Conclusions and recommendations

281. The Committee took note of the annual overview report of ACC (E/1995/21) and the report of the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC (E/1995/4). While welcoming the emphasis placed by ACC on policy issues pertaining to system-wide coordination and encouraging it to continue its efforts to promote greater coherence in the development work of the system, it stressed the need for the documentation to focus better on coordination issues of primary concern to CPC.

282. The Committee, while recognizing the merits of an approach to coordination that was based on a division of labour among the different organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, emphasized that the General Assembly was the central policy-making forum within the United Nations system. The Committee emphasized that enhanced coordination should lead to greater cost effectiveness and improved programme delivery.

283. The Committee agreed that the conclusions and declarations of recent major conferences and international events should be followed up in a coordinated manner within the context of an integrated approach, and welcomed the initiatives taken by the Secretary-General and ACC in that regard.

284. The Committee agreed to propose that the theme for the next series of joint meetings of CPC and ACC should be "Coordination of the activities of the United Nations system for the eradication of poverty". The Committee stressed that working arrangements for the joint meetings should be designed to promote a dialogue, and that written statements should be discouraged.

285. The Committee stressed the importance of continued attention of the Secretary-General, including in his capacity as Chairman of ACC, to efforts of assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Committee requested that the ACC overview report should continue to provide detailed information on assistance by the United Nations system to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter.

286. The Committee stressed the need for concrete actions in support of African development. It was emphasized that the decline in ODA flows to many African countries should be reversed, and Member States were urged to fulfil their financial commitments and pledges. The Committee further urged that the freeze on the growth of the budgetary expenditures of the United Nations should not affect adversely the development projects for Africa.

287. The Committee urged that the study being undertaken by ICSC of the application of the Noblemaire principle should be completed in time for its consideration by the General Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

288. The Committee stressed that there was an imperative need to place the organizations of the system on a more assured financial basis, and suggested that Member States should recommit themselves to paying their assessments in full, on time and without conditions.

V. REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

A. Review and assessment of efforts to restructure the regional dimension of United Nations economic and social activities

289. At its 7th and 8th meetings, on 18 May 1995, the Committee considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled "Review and assessment of efforts to restructure the regional dimension of United Nations economic and social activities" (A/49/423).

Discussion

290. Delegations expressed their thanks to JIU and many of them qualified the report as a clear, succinct and high-quality analytical document as well as a valuable contribution to the current restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat. They shared most of the conclusions and recommendations of JIU, but some delegations expressed their reservations with regard to recommendations 2 and 3 and requested clarifications as to whether implementation of these recommendations would have financial implications and lead to the creating of additional posts in the Secretariat. One delegation queried what the legislative mandate was for strengthening the regional commissions. Some delegations expressed the view that the regional commissions must undergo further reform before additional resources or remits could be considered.

291. Recommendation 1. Commenting on this recommendation, several delegations referred to a number of reasons explaining the slowing down of the current restructuring exercise, in particular, objective difficulties as well as an apparent lack of interest of Member States with regard to restructuring - a kind of restructuring fatigue. Some delegations, while mentioning that restructuring should be carried out cautiously and through a step-by-step approach, stated that restructuring of the economic and social sectors, as defined in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, should be completed. They believed that more active involvement of Member States was essential in this regard and that those States should not abdicate their responsibility to give guidance to the Secretary-General. Some delegations said that further analysis of the virtues of decentralization was required before taking further action.

292. Recommendation 2. Several delegations referred to the necessity of having an overall framework for restructuring as well as a strategic analysis and strategic planning facility in the United Nations Secretariat. Some delegations, while being in agreement with the recommendation in principle, wondered whether implementation of this recommendation implied creating new posts in the Secretariat and whether such a facility was not already existent within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. The Chairman of JIU clarified that the Unit did not recommend that new posts be created but that this function be strengthened and articulated through streamlining the Secretariat and making better use of in-house expertise.

293. Recommendation 3. With regard to this recommendation, it was clarified that JIU recommended not the establishment of a new post but the designation of "a competent senior official with extensive managerial experience, who will be a focal point and held accountable for the firm implementation of the current

restructuring process". There was acknowledgment that while this recommendation had been valid when the report was drafted, the function it referred to had been exercised by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management. In the view of several delegations, the Secretariat entities concerned rather than a focal point should be automatically responsible and held accountable for the implementation of the relevant decisions taken by Member States.

294. Recommendation 4. Several representatives stated that the report mentioned in the recommendation was long overdue.

295. Recommendation 5. Several delegations supported the idea that the regional commissions should increasingly concentrate their resources on priority areas where they could make a unique and significant contribution and either readjust or abandon activities that did not fall into this category. Some delegations held the view that additional efforts were needed on the part of the regional commissions to do away with obsolete and marginal programmes. Several delegations also shared the view that the commissions should improve their performance and strive to become centres of excellence for specific activities in their respective regions. In this context, the necessity of a better use of the regional commissions' comparative advantages and enhanced cooperation with other multilateral agencies, bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations was emphasized.

296. Recommendations 6 and 7. These recommendations found general support from the Committee. One delegation was of the opinion that the regional commissions should concentrate on coordination of the operational activities of other United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations and on analysis in fields in which they had significant comparative advantage and in which they could become real centres of excellence.

Conclusions and recommendations

297. The Committee generally commended the report, which it found to be very clear, analytical, comprehensive and useful.

298. The Committee endorsed the report of JIU, taking into account the views expressed in the discussion section.

B. Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system

299. At its 7th and 8th meetings, the Committee had before it the report of JIU entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system" (A/50/126-E/1995/20) and the comments of the ACC thereon (A/50/126/Add.1-E/1995/20/Add.1). The Committee also had before it the written presentation provided by the Unit.

300. Many delegations acknowledged the innovative framework of the report, while noting that the concept of "communication for development" needed additional clarification. Some delegations stressed that the report should have addressed more thoroughly the important role of telecommunication. One delegation characterized the report as being slightly out of focus, and said that it could be improved as the basic concept was clarified. Another delegation inquired to what extent communication as a process was being utilized within the United Nations system to enhance coordination.

301. Recommendation 10. Concerning the assertion in recommendation 10 of the report that "the United Nations has no specific structure in place for immediate action to deal with communication when a peace-keeping operation emerges", several delegations took exception. Noting that the above recommendation had already received the support of ACC, a number of delegations expressed the view that the subject-matter of the reform needed further study.

302. Some delegations questioned the appropriateness of linking peace-keeping operations and development in recommendation 10. They also underscored the sensitive nature of this recommendation, particularly the implication for political issues. In this connection, another delegation expressed the opinion that the "stand-by unit of communications experts" called for should report to the Department of Public Information.

303. Many delegations said that they had to obtain instructions from their capitals with respect to recommendation 10 of the report. While one delegation supported the thrust of recommendation 10, most delegations had particular reservations with regard to it.

Conclusions and recommendations

304. The Committee took note of the report.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

305. In pursuance of paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979, and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50 of 23 November 1979, the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its thirty-sixth session, together with the required documentation. In accordance with paragraph 8 of the annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, the thirty-sixth session of the Committee shall be of six weeks' duration.

306. At its 29th meeting, on 9 June 1995, the Committee considered the provisional agenda and the documentation for the thirty-sixth session on the basis of a note by the Secretariat.

307. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to submit to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly the following provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Committee:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 45/254 A, para. 17)

4. Programme questions:

   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995

   (b) Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001;

   Documentation

   Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

   (c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, and regulation 3.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme

Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation)

(d) Evaluation.

Documentation

In-depth evaluation of public information (A/49/16 (Part I), para. 34)

In-depth evaluation of peace-keeping operations: termination phase (ibid.)

Triennial review of the in-depth evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Strengthening of the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (regulations 7.3 and 7.4 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and General Assembly resolutions 37/234, 38/227 A and B, and 42/215)

5. Coordination questions: report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1995

Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the twenty-ninth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-sixth session.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/47/16), part one.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum (A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1), vols. I and II.

3/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

4/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

6/ General Assembly resolution 46/151, annex II.

7/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

8/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

9/ General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

10/ General Assembly resolution 45/158, annex.

11/ A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993, document S/26560.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

4. Programme questions:

   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997;

   (b) Evaluation.

5. Coordination questions: report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-fifth session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at its thirty-fifth session

E/AC.51/1995/1	Annotated provisional agenda	
A/50/6	Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997	
	Introduction and overview	
	Section 1	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination
	Section 2	Political affairs
	Section 3	Peace-keeping operations and special missions
	Section 4	Outer space affairs
	Section 6	Legal activities
	Section 7A	Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development
	Section 7B	Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development
	Section 8	Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis
	Section 9	Department for Development Support and Management Services
	Section 10A	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
	Section 10B	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT
	Section 11	United Nations Environment Programme
	Section 12	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
	Section 13	Crime control
	Section 14	International drug control
	Section 15	Economic Commission for Africa
	Section 16	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
	Section 17	Economic Commission for Europe

	Section 18	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
	Section 19	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
	Section 20	Regular programme of technical cooperation
	Section 21	Human rights
	Section 22	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
	Section 23	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
	Section 24	Department of Humanitarian Affairs
	Section 25	Public information
E/AC.51/1995/2 and Corr.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the final report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping operations: start-up phase	
E/AC.51/1995/3 and Corr.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on environment	
E/1995/21	Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1994	
A/49/423	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Review and assessment of efforts to restructure the regional dimension of United Nations economic and social activities"	
A/50/126-E/1995/20 and Add.1	Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system" and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the report	
E/AC.51/1995/L.4	Provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination	
E/AC.51/1995/L.1/Rev.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation	
E/AC.51/1995/L.2/Rev.1 and Add.1	Revised proposed programme of work	